14 Trees

14 Trees Foundation
(A Section 8 Company)

Annual Report
FY 21-22

From the Fonder's desk:

Mission: Transform barren lands into sustainable green forests

The success story of 14 Trees pilot site is gradually spreading in Khed taluka through the word of mouth. One by one local villagers, NGOs, gram panchayat members are joining hands and giving us consent for tree plantation on their barren land pieces. Through crowdfunding and CSR funds, we are attempting to make the entire 10 sq. mile barren area green. We are encouraged to see good response from various stakeholders across various domains to support 14 Trees initiative.
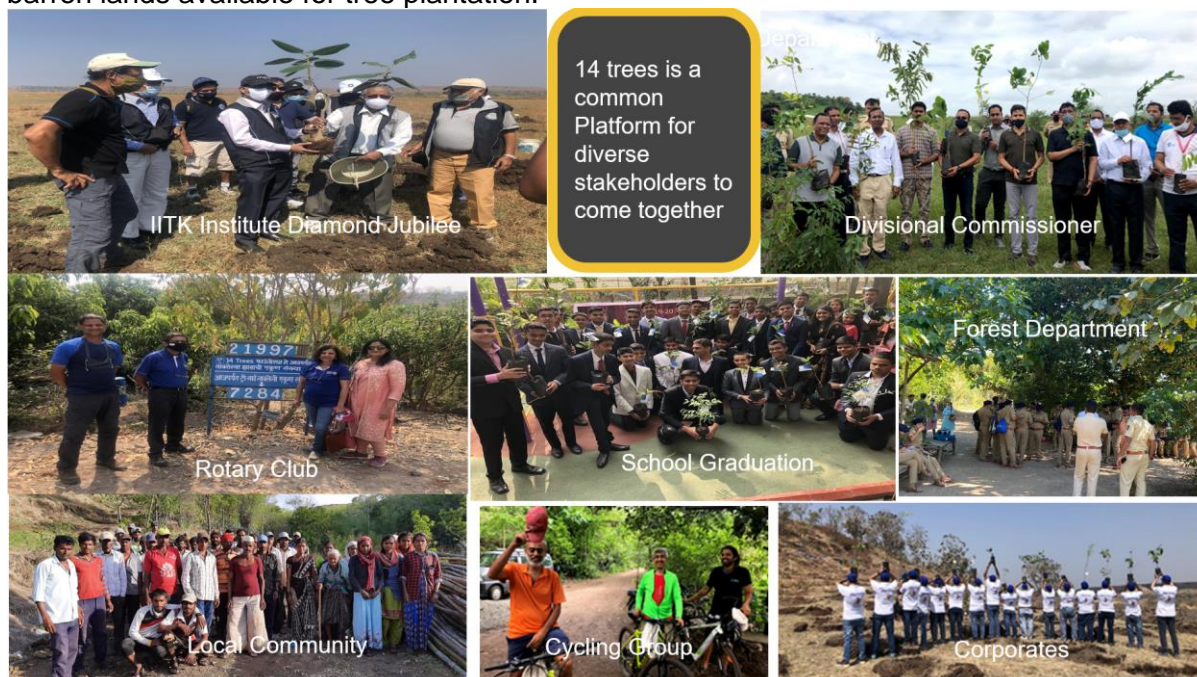

The demand is growing with more and more grampanchayats, schools, colleges, corporates, government officials, nature enthusiasts joining hands to help 14 Trees.

Common Platform for Diverse Stakeholders:

Inspired by the success of the project, local farmers, gram panchayat members, NGOs from the nearby villages are voluntarily coming forward to engage with the project to make their barren lands available for tree plantation.

14 trees is a common Platform for diverse stakeholders to come together

IITK Institute Diamond Jubilee

Divisional Commissioner

Forest Department

Rotary Club

School Graduation

Local Community

Cycling Group

Corporates

Year	Land (Acres)	Ponds	Trees	Livelihood
<2016	5	1	1000	4
2017	9 (+4)	4 (+3)	1,500 (+500)	7 (+3)
2018	19 (+10)	6 (+2)	3,500 (+2,000)	10 (+3)
2019	25 (+6)	12 (+6)	8,500 (+5,000)	14 (+4)
2020	75 (+50)	17 (+5)	15,500 (+7,000)	36 (+22)
2021	100 (+25)	25 (+8)	22,000 (+6,500)	86 (+50)
2022	130 (+30)	45 (+20)	40,000 (+18,000)	110 (+14)

The success of the project has attracted many different stakeholders to the site. Annually 14 Trees host anywhere between 300-500 visitors. 14 Trees has been consistent in it's message that this is purely a charitable project. It is run by volunteer', and has clarified that there is no financial return associated with any capital or time donated by the volunteers. The only return is joy and satisfaction of giving back to the nature a portion of what we have consumed & create scalable employment opportunities at the bottom of the pyramid. The 14 Trees reforestation site is very is quite scenic and even though seems ideally suited for a weekend getaway, 14 Trees is not interested in developing infrastructure for commercial returns or to entertain visitors who have no connect with the project goals. This allows 14 Trees to stay honest to it's core focus, that is, re-forestation. This has ensured we have attracted the serious nature lovers, environment experts, researchers, who contribute constructively to the growth of the project.

Community Participation:

Community participation has been an important success factor for 14 Trees. Due to employment of local tribal youth, creative visual boards at the site and consistent stream of visitors with success of forestation of completely barren land in the Khed Taluka has created a lot of curiosity and pride in the neighbouring villages. Many gram panchayat officials have come forward and offered their land for tree plantation. They have given a formal consent on a legal paper to ensure foundation is given full access to the land for tree plantation, maintenance, and related activities.

About 25 gram-panchayat's and about 100 farmers have given their consent to 14 Trees for tree planation in their land.

About 110 local tribal youth have been employed by 14 Trees which has helped growth the work, and improve ownership and pride in the villagers for the project. Many of their water challenges have been resolved due to various ponds developed by 14 Trees for the tree plantation purposes.
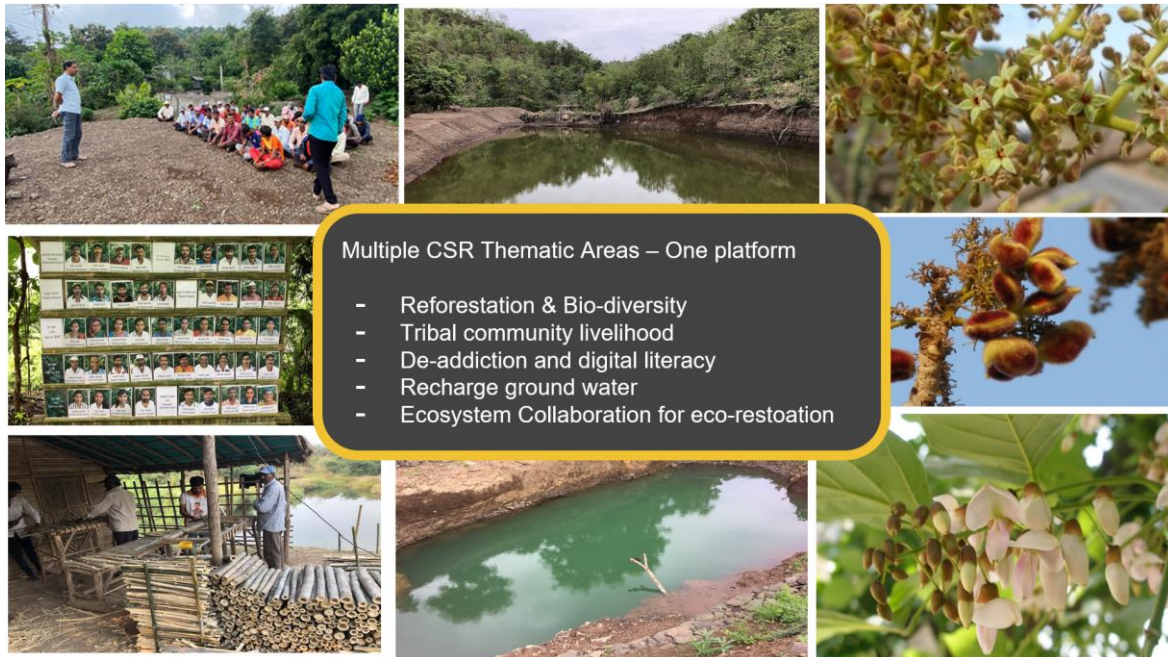
Corporate Collaboration:

Most of the initial funding for 14 Trees came through individual nature enthusiasts. 14 Trees offers a platform where apart from tree plantation many other CSR thematic areas are being addressed such as water, livelihood, bio-diversity and knowledge management on environment topics.

Multiple CSR Thematic Areas – One platform

- Reforestation & Bio-diversity
- Tribal community livelihood
- De-addiction and digital literacy
- Recharge ground water
- Ecosystem Collaboration for eco-restoation

Native trees & Biodiversity: We plant trees on barren pieces of land that are uncultivable. We also plant only native trees which are endemic to the region. Native trees often take longer to grow (compared to the fast growing non-native tree varieties), but native trees help in regeneration of local flora and fauna better than fast growing non-native varieties. Trees such as banyan, peepal, and umbar grow big and sequester massive amounts of CO_2 over their lifetime. Trees such as hirda, behada and jamun produce fruits which can be harvested and sold by the tribals to support their livelihood.

Rural entrepreneurship and Livelihood: Instead of relying on contractors, we are giving long term employment to local tribals and villagers. Villagers from the area prepare saplings, dig pits, plant and water the trees, tag plants and make and install tree guards around planted saplings. They get skilled in digital skills by taking pictures of the trees and water level in ponds and upload them to the website. 14TF also runs various ecological experiments to help locals with sustainable income options.

Rainwater harvesting ponds: A novel method of rainwater harvesting through systematic creation of 30 feet deep water ponds has resulted in availability of water round the year in an area that was barren, rocky and did not have ground water even at 200 feet depth. Rainwater harvesting by 14TF has increased the water table of the region through creation of over 60+ ponds.

Government Collaboration:

आयुक्त, जिल्हाधिकाऱ्यांची फोर्टिन ट्री प्रकल्पास भेट

वेताळे येथे तंत्रज्ञानाची माहिती घेत केली पाहणी

राजगुरुनगर, दि. २१ (प्रतिनिधी) - वेताळे गावाच्या हद्दीत हरीत शिंदे द‌र्‍यात २०० एकर डोंगर उतारावर फोर्टिन ट्री या सामाजिक सेवाभावी संस्थेचे सर्वेसर्वा डॉ. प्रवीण भागवत यांनी अवघ्या तीन वर्षात २५ हजारांपेक्षा अधिक विविध वृक्षांसह औषधी, आयुर्वेदिक, फळझाडांची केली आहे. तेथे राबविण्यात आलेल्या तंत्रज्ञानाची माहिती व पाहणी पुणे विभागीय आयुक्त सौरभ राव, सामाजिक वनीकरण उपवनसंरक्षक रंगनाथ नाईकडे यांच्यासह जिल्हा परिषद अध्यक्षा निर्मला पानसरे, जिल्हाधिकारी डॉ. राजेश देशमुख, जिल्हा परिषदेचे मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी आयुष प्रसाद यांनी केली.

भागवत यांनी अवघ्या तीन वर्षात २५ हजारांहून अधिक विविध वृक्षांसह औषधी, आयुर्वेदिक, फळझाडांची लागवड केली आहे. उन्हाळ्यात पाण्यासाठी विविध ठिकाणी खडकातील टाक्या, बंधारे करून यशस्वीपणे वृक्षांची जोपासना

केली आहे. त्यांनी राबविलेल्या विविध योजना, पाणी नियोजन, झाडे लावण्याची पद्धत आदींची माहिती पुणे विभागीय आयुक्त सौरभ राव, सामाजिक वनीकरण उपवनसंरक्षक रंगनाथ नाईकडे यांच्यासह जिल्हा परिषद अध्यक्षा निर्मला पानसरे, जिल्हाधिकारी डॉ. राजेश देशमुख, जिल्हा परिषदेचे मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी आयुष प्रसाद, जुन्नर वनविभागाचे वनसरंक्षक जयरामे गौडा यांनी या प्रकल्पाला भेट दिली. यावेळी सहायक वनसरंक्षक बी. ए. पोळ,

उपजिल्हाधिकारी संजय तेली, प्रांत विक्रांत चव्हाण, तहसीलदार डॉ. वैशाली वाघमारे, सेवानिवृत्त अपर जिल्हाधिकारी किशोरी आवाडे, वनाधिकारी जे. बी. पढवळ, आर. गो गद्दे, नजी. पुजारी, प्रदीप रौंधळ, अनिल लांडगे, पोलीस निरीक्षक सतीश गुरव, नायब तहसीलदार संजय शिंदे, सरपंच सविता बोंबले, उपसरपंच योगेश बोंबले आदींसह मंडलाधिकारी, तलाठी, ग्रामसेवक, वनकर्मचारी, संस्थेचे व्यवस्थापक आनंद तायडे यावेळी उपस्थित होते.

Divisional Commissioner

Collector, Pune

Jilla Parishad CEO

Dy Commissioner

Dy CCF, Forest

23 Aug, '21

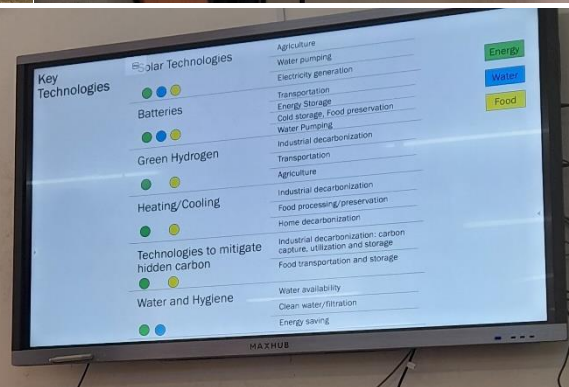3 Follow up meetings by Divisional Commissioner

Balanced Net-Zero workshop:

'Balanced Net-Zero' workshop work-shop was organised by 14 Trees Foundation, Ecological Society and IIT Kanpur — Center for Energy Policy and Climate Solutions. The workshop was hosted at Gokhale Institute Pune on Fri, Mar 11 2022. 40 eminent Technologists, Economists, Social scientists, Entrepreneurs, Ecologists and Policy Makers assembled to participate in an interdisciplinary workshop on achieving carbon neutrality & sustainability. A small effort towards defining a pathway towards a sustainable future is starting. Members from the following institutes are coming forward to collaborate:

- IIT Kanpur
- 14 Trees Foundation
- Ecological Society
- Pune International Center (PIC), Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC)
- IISER, Pune
- Gokhale Institute
- ATREE (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment)
- TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute)
- Tata Consulting Services
- IEEE

Stories of Change:

Ramesh Bhalerao

Ramesh Bahlerao has been working with 14 Trees Foundation as a carpenter. He changed the design of tree guard to a cuboidal shape. His new design is sturdy, easy to transport and easy to assemble. 80 tree guards can be transported at a time. "I love my work here", he says, "I don't think I'm here for the money. I just love to apply my creative potential to good use."

Ramesh has been practicing his carpentry skill in Vetale village since childhood. He also roamed in the big cities, but never felt more excited at work since he started working on reforestation project. He says, "...I would always do what my client wanted. By the end of the day, I would be so tired I'd have no time to exercise carpentry as my passion. Here, I am free to do my experiments! I see a picture of a bench or a table, and I think of how I can add my personal touch to it." He has done many experiments at the site.

He has made bamboo machans that are appreciated by every one of our guests. The surprising thing is, he had never before worked with bamboo. "I have learned a lot in these last few years. The task was to use only the material available here on this land and to make furniture out of it. It's a fun challenge to discover and work with the material properties and limitations as we create."

Visitor's Corner:

Inspire stakeholders to act: We are trying to inspire individual action among villagers, gram panchayats and urban dwellers for nature restoration by building an emotional bond with the tree that they plant. We are also generating support through crowdfunding (instead of relying on Govt. subsidies or solely depending on organizational CSR funds). The model is replicable, scalable and sustainable.

We wish to evolve 14 Trees into a people's movement where interested enthusiasts can engage and contribute their time, ideas, and resources in service of increasing greening the earth. We draw inspiration from the open-source S/W movement which has been very successful in engaging world-class talent on a volunteer basis to create S/W platforms, tools and products for common good. We believe a similar 'open source' movement is needed in nature conservation space.

Ravi Pandit- Chairman KPIT

DK Jain – Member , Lokpal Former Chief Secretary, MH

Subramaniam Ramadorai Former TCS Vice-Chairman

Leadership Support – Corporate, Government, Institutions, Social Sector

Prof Dande - IITK Director

RFO - Forest Department

Arvind Gupta PadmaShree

About 14 Trees Foundation:

14 Trees Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to building sustainable, carbon-footprint-neutral ecosystems through reforestation. The Not-for-profit company has an ambitious goal of transforming barren patches of land into sustainable forests.

For more information on 14 Trees Foundation, please visit www.14trees.org

About the founder : Pravin Bhagwat

Pravin Bhagwat is an entrepreneur and a wireless security researcher. He was Co-founder & CTO of Mojo Networks -- a product venture which started in year 2003 from Pune and grew to become a leading provider of Cloud Managed Secure Wi-Fi for the global market. In 2018, the company was acquired by Arista.

Prior to starting his entrepreneurial journey, Pravin served as a Visiting Faculty at Computer Science Department, IIT Kanpur. In 2005, Pravin was awarded MIT's Global Indus Technovator Award for successfully engineering the world's first multi-hop WLAN network. Pravin is also the recipient of IIT Kanpur Distinguished Alumnus Award of 2019.

*14 Trees can absorb every bit of CO$_2$
you breathe out over your lifetime.*

14
Trees

*Start planting your 14 trees now! Leave no
carbon footprint behind.*

www.14trees.org